

What is claimed is:

1. A striking tool comprising a head assembled to a handle having a long axis, characterized in that the head comprises a closed cavity extending into  
5 the head in the direction of the long axis, an opening through a wall of the head into the cavity, the opening extending at substantially a right angle to the long axis, and a spreading element inserted through the opening and spreading a portion of the handle within the cavity to urge against walls of the cavity to secure the head to the handle.  
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2. The striking tool of claim 1 wherein the striking tool has a plane of substantial symmetry, and the opening for the spreading element extends in a direction substantially at a right angle to the long axis and substantially at a right angle to the plane of substantial symmetry.  
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3. The striking tool of claim 1 wherein the striking tool has an axis of substantial symmetry, and the opening for the spreading element extends in a direction substantially at a right angle to the long axis and in the plane of substantial symmetry.  
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4. The striking tool of claim 1 wherein the spreading element comprises a tapered wedge.
5. The striking tool of claim 1 wherein the portion of the handle extending  
25 into the cavity in the head comprises a slot positioned to receive the spreading element, such that the spreading element enters the slot urging parts of the handle on opposite sides of the slot apart and against the walls of the cavity.

6. The striking tool of claim 1 wherein the spreading element comprises a rotatable cam.

5        7. The striking tool of claim 6 wherein the portion of the handle extending into the cavity in the head comprises a slot and a cam opening to receive the rotatable cam, the cam opening positioned to receive the cam, such that as the rotatable cam is rotated the parts of the handle on opposite sides of the slot are urged apart and against the walls of the cavity.

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8. A method for affixing a head to a handle having a long axis to form a striking tool, comprising the steps of:

          (a) providing a closed cavity extending into the head in the direction of the long axis and an opening through a wall of the head into the cavity,  
15        the opening extending at substantially a right angle to the long axis; and  
          (b) inserting a spreading element through the opening to spread a portion of the handle within the cavity to urge against walls of the cavity to secure the head to the handle.

20        9. The method of claim 8 wherein the assembled striking tool has a plane of substantial symmetry, and the opening for the spreading element extends in a direction substantially at a right angle to the long axis and substantially at a right angle to the plane of substantial symmetry.

25        10. The method of claim 8 wherein the assembled striking tool has an axis of substantial symmetry, and the opening for the spreading element extends in a direction substantially at a right angle to the long axis and in the plane of substantial symmetry.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the spreading element comprises a tapered wedge.

5      12. The method of claim 8 wherein the portion of the handle extending into the cavity in the head comprises a slot positioned to receive the spreading element, such that the spreading element enters the slot urging parts of the handle on opposite sides of the slot apart and against the walls of the cavity.

10      13. The method of claim 8 wherein the spreading element comprises a rotatable cam.

15      14. The method of claim 13 wherein the portion of the handle extending into the cavity in the head comprises a slot and a cam opening to receive the rotatable cam, the cam opening positioned to receive the cam, such that as the rotatable cam is rotated the parts of the handle on opposite sides of the slot are urged apart and against the walls of the cavity.